NASA Develops Tool for Preventing Airline Accidents [created: 08/01/2005] [last update: 08/01/2005]

A tool created by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) scientists to alert airline analysts to potential, unanticipated problems and to enhance industry safety and reliability is available for licensing, according to a September 15 NASA press release.

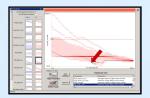
Scientists at NASA's Ames Research Center (ARC) at Moffett Field, California, developed a "Morning Report" of atypical flights that automatically identifies statistically extreme flights to airline flight operations quality assurance analysts. The new software may help analysts identify the precursors of incidents or accidents.

"The Morning Report offers a promising method for identifying unanticipated problems and opportunities in flight data recorded by commercial aircraft," said Thomas Chidester, ARC Aviation Performance Measuring System manager. "The Morning Report implements concepts from flight science and statistics into practical applications usable in industry," he added.

The tool provides airline quality assurance personnel with a list of atypical flights in an easy tabular format, highlighting the most extreme five percent. Highlighted flights are examined to determine whether they represent operational problems.

Information about the Aviation Performance Measuring System and the Morning Report are available here, at AMES Research Center web site

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APMS Morning Report Analysis screenshot